CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method to assess an entity comprising:

selecting a rubric having associated rubric information;

inputting assessment input information associated with an entity;

mapping said assessment input information to said rubric information to yield results of said mapping; and

storing said results of said mapping.

2. The method of claim 1, where said rubric information includes at least one benchmark, at least one criteria associated with each said at least one benchmark, and at least one score associated with each said at least one benchmark.

3. The method of claim 1, where said assessment input information includes an assessment element, and where mapping said assessment input information to said rubric information includes mapping said assessment element to at least one matching benchmark included within said rubric information.

4. The method of claim 3, where mapping said assessment input information to said rubric information includes mapping said assessment input information to said at least one matching criteria and to said at least one matching score associated with said matching benchmark.

5. The method of claim 1, where said assessment input information is represented by any machine readable representation including multimedia, audio, video, images, still pictures, type and freehand writing, and any representation that can be interpreted in electronic format.

6. The method of claim 1, where said assessment input information includes an identification of a combination of the entity, the input type and the rubric.

7. The method of claim 1, where said assessment input information is extracted from at least one data repository.

8. The method of claim 1, where mapping said assessment input information to rubric information employs an information deciphering methodology that comprises at least one of artificial intelligence, natural language processing with speech recognition, hand writing recognition and text scanning.

9. The method of claim 4, where storing the results of the mapping includes storing said matching score and any combination of said matching benchmark, said matching criteria, identification of said entity and of said rubric.

10. The method of claim 4, where mapping the assessment input information to rubric information creates a new benchmark within said rubric information during mapping of said assessment input information to said matching benchmark.

11. The method of claim 4, where mapping the assessment input information to rubric information creates at least one new criteria within said rubric during mapping of said assessment input information to said matching criteria.

12. The method of claim 4, where mapping the assessment input information to rubric information creates a new rubric during mapping of said assessment input information to said matching benchmark.

13. The method of claim 1, further comprising analyzing the results of said mapping by an examination of at least one of patterns, correlation of said patterns, generation of alerts and the evaluation of the utility of said rubric based upon results of the mapping.

14. The method of claim 1, where inputting assessment input information associated with an entity precedes selecting a rubric having associated rubric information, said assessment input information including information identifying said rubric.

15. Apparatus to assess an entity, comprising a selection unit to select a rubric having associated rubric information, an input unit to input assessment information associated with an entity, a mapping unit to map said assessment input information to said rubric information to yield a mapping result and a storage medium to store said mapping result.

16. The apparatus of claim 15, comprising a data processor executing software to implement at least

a portion of one or more of said selection, inputting and mapping units.

17. The apparatus of claim 15, where said inputting unit comprises a microphone for input and storage of audio information.

18. The apparatus of claim 15, where said inputting unit comprises a camera for input and storage of video information.

19. The apparatus of claim 15, comprising a communications port for communicating information between the apparatus and a location remote from the apparatus.

20. The apparatus of claim 19, where said storage medium is at least one of local to or remote from said apparatus.

21. The apparatus of claim 15, embodied by a portable computing device.

22. The apparatus of claim 15, where said input unit captures contextual information for use in developing at least one context-based rubric.

23. The apparatus of claim 15, where said assessment input information comprises a machine readable representation that comprises at least one of multimedia, audio, video, images, still pictures, typeset and freehand writing and any representation that can be interpreted in electronic format.

24. The apparatus of claim 15, where said mapping unit implements an information deciphering methodology that comprises at least one of artificial intelligence, natural language processing with speech recognition, hand writing recognition and text scanning.

25. The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising an analysis unit coupled to said storage unit to analyze said mapping result by at least one of an identification of patterns, a correlation of patterns, a generation of alerts and an evaluation of a utility of said rubric based upon said mapping results.

26. The apparatus of claim 15, where said rubric information comprises at least one benchmark, at least one criteria associated with each at least one benchmark, and at least one score associated with each at least one benchmark.

27. The apparatus of claim 26, where said assessment input information comprises an assessment element, and where said mapping unit maps said assessment element to at least one matching benchmark included within said rubric information.

28. The apparatus of claim 27, where said mapping unit further maps said assessment input information to at least one matching criteria and to at least one matching score associated with said matching benchmark.

29. The apparatus of claim 19, where said assessment input information is extracted and communicated to at least one data repositories.

30. A procedure embodied as program code on a medium that is readable by a computer, the program code being used to direct operation of a computer for assessing an entity, the program code comprising

a program code segment for selecting a rubric having associated rubric information;

a program code segment for inputting assessment input information associated with an entity;

a program code segment for mapping said assessment input information to said rubric information to yield results of said mapping;

a program code segment for storing said results of said mapping.

31. A procedure as in claim 30, where said entity is a human entity.

32. A procedure as in claim 31, where said entity is a student.

33. A procedure as in claim 31, where said entity is a patient.

34. A procedure as in claim 31, where said entity is an employee.

35. A procedure as in claim 30, where said entity is a non-human entity.

36. A procedure as in claim 35, where said entity is a business entity or a component part of a business entity.

37. A procedure as in claim 35, where said entity is a process.

38. A procedure as in claim 37, where said process is one of a medical process, a manufacturing process and an accounting process.

39. A procedure as in claim 30, where said rubric comprises an identifier, at least one criterion, at least one score representing an assessment value of the at least one criterion, and at least one benchmark representing an exemplary standard of assessment that has been assigned to the at least one criterion and associated score.

40. A procedure as in claim 30, where at least two of the program code segments operate on different computers, and communicate over a data communications network.